

- Unemployment rate dropped to 5.7% in September
- Value of building permits climbed 23.8% in August
- BC's homicide rate jumped from 2.26 in 2003 to 2.67 in 2004

## Labour Force

- British Columbia's unemployment rate fell for the second straight month in September, slipping 0.1 percentage points to 5.7% (*seasonally adjusted*). A slight decline in the size of the labour force (-0.1%) combined with a small boost in employment (+0.1%) was the reason for the improvement in the jobless rate.

A 0.4% increase in the size of the workforce in BC's service sector was the driving force behind the jump in overall employment to 2,146,800. Significant increases in employment in retail and wholesale trade (+2.5%) and information, culture & recreation (+11.7%) and a rebound in tourism-related industries such as accommodation & food services (+1.1%) and transportation & warehousing (+3.7%) helped offset large declines in finance, insurance & real estate & leasing (-6.1%) and professional, scientific & technical services (-4.1%).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- Employment in the goods sector fell in September with 1.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) fewer jobs being recorded in goods-producing industries. This is despite the fact that manufacturing, the largest employer among the goods industries, increased its workforce 1.5%. Significant drops in employment in construction (-1.2%), primary industries such as forestry, fishing & mining (-5.3%) and agriculture (-9.5%) countered the gains in manufacturing.

After experiencing three months of falling employment, the number of men at work in BC increased 0.8% in September. However, there were 7,500 fewer women with jobs in the province (-0.7%) compared to August.

The overall employment increase was a result of a 0.2% jump in full-time employment (+4,100 jobs), which more than offset a 0.5% drop in

part-time jobs (-2,400).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- For the fifth consecutive month, all regions of the province saw single-digit unemployment rates. The jobless rates ranged from a low of 4.4% (3-month-moving average, *unadjusted*) in the Northeast to 6.4% in Kootenay and Vancouver Island/Coast. The Cariboo region has experienced considerable improvement in the rate of unemployment over the last several months, dropping from a peak of 10.4% in April, to 5.4% in September, a phenomenal five percentage point decline.

With the exception of Thompson-Okanagan (+1.8%), all other regions of the province saw employment fall in September. The Northeast (-3.5%) experienced the most significant drop in jobs, followed by North Coast and Nechako (-2.3%).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- Canada's unemployment rate improved to 6.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in September, remaining a full percentage point higher than BC's rate. Nationally, both the size of the labour force and the number of jobs remained virtually unchanged. The four western provinces had the lowest unemployment rates in the country, ranging from 4.1% in Alberta to 6.0% in Saskatchewan.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## The Economy

- The value of building permits issued by the province's municipalities in August climbed (+23.8%, *seasonally adjusted*) as both residential (+33.9%) and non-residential (+6.2%) building projects increased.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- Over the first eight months of 2005, the value of issued building permits in BC was up (+22.8% *unadjusted*) over the same interval

Did you know...

Roast turkey has only 135 calories and contains just 2 grams of fat per 100 gram serving.  
So, "gobble gobble" this Thanksgiving!

**last year.** Total planned investment was strong across the province with the Mainland/Southwest area recording the lowest rise in value of permits (+12.9%) and the Cariboo (+87.4%) and North Coast (+89.6%) regions being the most prominent in terms of growth. Increases in other areas ranged from 25.1% in Vancouver Island/Coast, to 58.4% in Kootenay. Residential building permits in the province were up a more modest 7.4% due in part to the 4.2% decrease in the value of residential permits in Mainland/Southwest, which is the area where the majority of BC's permits are issued. Northeast (-71.8%) was the only region where the value of industrial permits was lower than in the first eight months of 2004 and Kootenay (-45.7%) and Cariboo (-5.3%) were the only regions in the province where the value of commercial building permits was down. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **High investment intentions of businesses and governments had the total value of building permits in Canada soaring in August.** Municipalities issued \$5.4 billion in building permits (a 10.2% increase from July). The construction boom in both British Columbia and Alberta was the biggest factor in the upsurge in the value of building permits, accounting for 87% of the year-to-date increase from 2004. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

### Tourism

- **Tourism was booming in Canada from 1998-2000 with its GDP rising 15% to reach \$22.4 billion in 2000.** Tourism expenditure and tourism jobs were also up with expenditures increasing by 17% to \$53.7 billion and jobs jumping to 610,000 (up 7.5%). Tourism in Canada was boosted in part by the low value for the Canadian dollar (average exchange rate 67 cents US) in the years 1998-2000.

Although a 15% increase in visitor spending in Canada boosted tourism exports to \$17.8 billion, Canadian travellers spent a total of \$20.9 billion abroad, leaving the net tourism trade balance at a \$3.1 billion deficit.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

### Homicides

- **British Columbia's homicide rate jumped to 2.67 per 100,000 population in 2004, up from 2.26 in 2003.** A big reason for the higher rate is the ongoing mass murder investigation in Port Coquitlam, where victims of homicides from previous years were only discovered in 2004 (homicides are counted in the year in which the police report is filed).

Nationally, after reaching a 30-year low in 2003, Canada's homicide rate climbed to 1.95 homicides per 100,000 population in 2004 (from 1.73). Canada's western provinces accounted for most of this increase. The highest homicide rates were recorded in Manitoba (4.27), Saskatchewan (3.92) Alberta (2.69) and BC (2.67) with the remainder of the provinces below the Canadian average. Of the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) with populations over 500,000, Winnipeg recorded the highest rate at 4.89. In BC, Vancouver had 56 murders—a rate of 2.58, while Victoria recorded a rate of 1.51, reflecting five homicides in 2004. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

### Foreign Control of Exports

- **In 2002, foreign-controlled establishments accounted for approximately one-fifth of corporate assets in Canada, generating 30% of total operating revenues, whereas they accounted for 45% of Canada's merchandise exports.** Ontario had the largest degree of foreign control of provincial exports. Although their foreign controlled exporting establishments represented merely 11% of their total exporting establishments, they accounted for 61% of the value of their total exports. Conversely, New Brunswick's foreign-controlled exporting establishments represented 4% of their total exporting establishments and their exports amounted to only 6% of New Brunswick's total exports. BC was in the middle with 363 (6%) foreign-controlled export establishments accounting for 29% of the total provincial value of exports.

*Data Source: SC catalogue no. 65-507-MIE2005004*

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fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**



Email transmission information service from **BC STATS**



also on the Internet at [www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca)

## BC at a glance . . .

<b>POPULATION (thousands)</b>		
	Jul 1/05	% change on one year ago
BC	4,254.5	1.3
Canada	32,270.5	0.9
<b>GDP and INCOME</b>		
(BC - at market prices)	2004	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	156,481	7.5
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	138,783	3.9
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	33,072	2.8
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	20,002	1.2
<b>TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)</b>		
		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jul	3,392	-5.5
Merchandise Exports - Jul	2,599	-9.8
Retail Sales - Jul	4,183	1.5
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>		
(all items - 1992=100)	Aug '05	12-month avg % change
BC	125.9	2.0
Canada	128.0	2.1
<b>LABOUR FORCE (thousands)</b>		
(seasonally adjusted)	Sep '05	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,263	-0.1
Employed - BC	2,135	0.1
Unemployed - BC	128	-3.1
		Aug '05
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	5.7	5.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	6.7	6.8
<b>INTEREST RATES (percent)</b>		
	Oct 5/05	Oct 6/04
Prime Business Rate	4.50	4.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.05	4.80
- 5 year	5.80	6.30
<b>US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE</b>		
	Oct 5/05	Oct 6/04
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$	1.1795	1.2593
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)	0.8459	0.7941
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE</b>		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Sep '05	% change on one year ago
BC	709.12	1.6
Canada	713.23	4.2

### SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada  
 Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics  
 For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see [www.bankofcanada.ca](http://www.bankofcanada.ca)

## Completely revised

## Economic Multipliers

(This item is in our WebStore for \$75 + GST)

The purpose of this publication is to provide guidance to analysts tasked with trying to quantify economic impacts. The report provides information generated from the 2001 Provincial Input-Output model, which has been used to calculate more than 4500 different multipliers for the BC economy. The report also provides explanatory information and example analyses that should promote the correct selection and application of these multipliers.

There are many situations, however, when the best approach to economic impact estimation is not to use a multiplier, but to make use of the input-output model in a project-specific way. A secondary purpose of this report is to help analysts to recognize such situations and to invite them to contact BC STATS to request use of the model for their application.

Provincial Economic Multipliers & How to Use Them

[http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr\\_pem.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/pubs/pr_pem.asp)

## Updated on our site

## 2001 Census Profiles

We've refreshed all these files on our site to resolve minor problems.

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/> [continued]  
[data/cen01/profiles/csd\\_txt.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/profiles/csd_txt.asp)

### Released this week by BC STATS

- Business Indicators, September 2005

### Next week

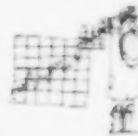
- Immigration Highlights, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2005
- Tourism Sector Monitor, September 2005



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## BC STATS

### Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services



#### Small Business Profile 2001

A Survey of Small Business in British Columbia

## Recent Publications

Small Business Profile 2001

2001 Small Business Profile

2001 BC Small Business Profile

2001 Small Business Profile

2001 Small Business Profile

#### New Releases

More New Releases, n.n.

October 6, 2005

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC MULTIPLIERS AND HOW TO USE THEM

Updated, including information generated from the 2001 Provincial Input-Output model.

See more »

September 19, 2005

#### 2001 CENSUS PROFILES

2001 Census Profiles have been updated to incorporate all corrections to data.

See more »

September 19, 2005

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA'S HUNTING, TRAPPING & WILDLIFE VIEWING SECTOR

Presents an overview of hunting, trapping and wildlife viewing in British Columbia including key economic data such as estimates of GDP, revenue and employment. Planned to include 2004 figures.

See more »

September 14, 2005

#### THE MEDIA ROOM

Our Media Room is designed with journalists in mind.

See more »

September 2, 2005

#### THE BUSINESS GATEWAY

We've added a page designed to which our business clients to appropriate resources on our site and beyond.

See more »

#### ABOUT US

BC Stats is the central statistical agency of the Province of British Columbia. We have the provincial government's largest concentration of statistical products, services and expertise. [More...](#)

#### Data questions?

Please contact Data Services

#### Comments about our web site?

Please contact the webmaster

#### Quick Facts

##### Statistical Glossary

Population (thousands)	Jul 1 2005	% change on one year ago
BC	4,254.5	1.3
Canada	32,270.5	0.9

##### Consumer Price Index

(all items 1992=100)	Aug '05	12-month avg % change
BC	125.9	2.0
Canada	128.0	2.1

##### Unemployment Rate

(seasonally adjusted)	Sep '05	Aug '05
BC (percent)	5.7	5.9
Canada (percent)	6.7	6.8

##### BC GDP

(at market prices)	2004	% change on one year ago
\$ millions	156,481	7.5
\$ 1997 chained millions	138,783	3.9

Source: Statistics Canada

##### Interest Rates

(percent)	Oct 5/ 2005	Oct 6/ 2004
Prime Business Rate	4.50	4.00
Mortgages - 1 year	5.05	4.80
- 5 year	5.80	6.30

Source: Bank of Canada

See INFOLINE for additional data



